

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

August 2019



AUGUST PROGRAM

SDR Radios for Contesting and DXing

By: Eric, NC6K

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Ron, N6XT

I would like thank all those and involved with putting on the 2019 Bash and of course we can't forget the Hosts Randy and Dawn. We had 65 DXers in attendance.

I was asked to forward this to our membership:

Please distribute to SDDXC club members and publish in August bulletin in case anyone is interested in a DXpedition opportunity to a warm location this fall/winter.

Subject: Palmyra Atoll opportunity

US Fish & Wildlife looking for volunteers to spend 4 months on Palmyra Atoll, beginning with training in Honolulu Sept 15. Anyone have some time on their hands? See link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/230654970632461/posts/916730672024884/?sfnsn=mo>

I'm still in the process getting my station up. I hope to have it up and operating by the end of the month.

August Presenter will be Eric, NC6K on SDR Dxing and Contesting.

73,

Ron, N6XT



Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes, June 26, 2019

At 6:30 pm Ron Rosson, N6XT, called the meeting to order. 27 members and four guests were in attendance. Our guests were Jerry Schneider, KN6CGB (his 2nd visit), Mark Thiemens, KI6IT, Thomas Bryan, W5COM (his 3rd visit) and Chris Blazie, K6CKB.



The June Treasurer report and meeting minutes were approved.

Announcements: The Bash will be held on Sunday August 4th, at the QTH of Randy Standke, KQ6RS, located in Rancho Penasquitos.

Old business – None.

New business – The memorial for Harry Hodges, W6YOO, will be held on July 28th.

At 6:37 pm we started the round table discussion.

At 7:20 Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ gave a presentation on the *1948 Gatti Hallicrafters DXpedition to Africa*.

At 7:49 pm the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Income for July: None

Expenses for July: \$12.92 Speaker's dinner. \$130.50 SDDXC.org domain name renewal until 10/12/2028

Statement Balance on 7/26/2019 \$7,574.24

Randy, KQ6RS

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM



TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON DIGITAL

8/19	8/18	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K0XB	40	324	329	329	-
2.	2.	NN6K	40	324	325	326	-
3.	3.	N7CW	39	265	266	311	-
4.	4.	K6XT	40	296	296	299	-9
5.	5.	NA6L	32	263	263	269	-
6.	6.	WB6BFG	40	253	254	266	-
7.	8.	WN6K	40	212	213	247	-
8.	10.	K5OA	30	212	216	239	+35
9.	-	W6HDG	39	205	205	221	NEW
10.	9	K6ZH	39	191	191	219	-

The big news is the 35 point jump by K5OA moving him up two places. There are plenty of new ones out there for the rest of us, so give the digital modes a try. Digital is becoming more popular all the time. The advent of FT8 has really ignited a surge of interest. The old 60 WPM baudot RTTY mode is now heard mostly only on contest weekends.

New software from Joe Taylor is being introduced all the time. MMTTY is a good one for RTTY contesting with Wintest or N1MM and a sound blaster card, but now I'm hearing good things about a new decoder called "2Tone". Most of the expeditions are now doing a fair amount of RTTY and FT8 for The Deserving. We'll be looking for many more entries next year in this fun but under-represented category.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, phone and CW. Please send me your totals for each band and mode throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



Russian Robinson Club

If you've picked up a "New One" – all time, band, mode, etc. – by working the Democratic Republic of Yemen, (7O6T), the Juan Fernandez Islands, (XRØZRC) or the Islamic Republic of Iran, EP6RRC, you might tip your hat to and thank the Russian Robinson Club for their support and participation.

All active IOTA chasers know about the Russian Robinson Club. Non-IOTA DXers, not so much. So this short narrative is aimed at the non-IOTA DXers who would like to expand their understanding of how some DXpeditions are managed, resourced, staffed and financed.

Like the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) that has hundreds of members/contributors and has been active since 1946, the Russian Robinson Club (RRC) was founded in 1972 and now has over 900 members from 58 countries. The missions of these organizations are similar, but hardly identical. While the NCDXF (which is regarded as the premier DX foundation in the world) has supported over 500 DXpeditions, large and small. (For "mega" DXpeditions, NCDXF is often the "anchor" sponsor and its grant often makes the difference in whether the DXpedition goes forward. For example, the NCDXF contributed \$100,000 to the ill-fated 3YØZ Bouvet Island DXpedition in January, 2018.)

In contrast, the RRC focuses on polar and island expeditions, having sponsored/participated in over 1000 DXpeditions to more than 300 Russian islands and more than 50 IOTA counters.

You might find it interesting to note that some rare DX entities are activated not from their mainland but rather from their surrounding islands. For example, the Yemen 7O6T expedition operated from Socotra Island (AF-Ø28) which is more than 600 miles from the capital city of Sana'a far out in the Arabian Sea. Similarly, the EP6RRC expedition operated from Shif Island, which is in the Persian Gulf just over 450 miles south of the capital, Tehran.

One can speculate that the rarest of the rarest DXCC entity, the Democratic Republic of Korea (P5) may be activated via one of its three offshore island groups (AS-195 or AS-196, both located in the Yellow Sea or AS-197 which is in the Sea of Japan). Hope springs eternal! GO RRC!

In addition to helping out Russian island operations, the RRC also sponsors awards for working Russian lighthouses, mountains and maritime and aero-mobile stations. Among my favorites is my QSL from EKØRR/am, hot air balloon aeronautical mobile operated by Romeo Stepanenko of P5RS7 fame. He may need the balloon again to help him relocate from his present QTH, the Moshannon Valley Correctional Institution in Pennsylvania.



Bob, K9RHY



Mt Athos Update

This message comes from this week's edition of the Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin and it appears to raise more questions than it answers.

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SV/A, MT. ATHOS (Monk Iakovos, SV2RSG, Mount Athos News).

The following is a letter written by Monk Iakovos, SV2RSG, and was provided by Theodore Giamtsidis, SV1GRM:

Dear Radio Amateur friends,

I am Monk Iakovos from the Holy Monastery of Koutloumousiou of Mount Athos, bearing the distinct amateur radio call sign SV2RSG. I hereby take the liberty to contact you and write in the circumstances of what has been circulated as sporadic rumors regarding Mount Athos, Monk Apollo and me in conjunction to the issue of ham radio activities (radio amateur).

My sole purpose and intention is to provide clarification, based on actual facts and figures, in restoration of the truth. Regarding my eligibility as a radio amateur and solid proof of it, there are the relevant official records in the competent state service offices in Thessaloniki but also in the pertinent Ministry in Athens, for anyone interested in accessing, verifying, learning more, as well as relevant accompanying photographic material that has come under exposure to public eye at various given time periods.

Concerning the subject of a radio amateur license held by the passed Monk Apollo (SV2ASP), whether licensed by the Holy Community (Greek Hiera Koenotes) of Mount Athos for Amateur Radio Broadcasting, I would like to clarify the following: The Holy Community has never shown any sign of interest in this issue, until as recently as only 4 years ago.

The only permission granted to the late blessed Monk Apollo was for radio warning communications (regarding natural as well as other serious environmental hazards and disasters), in order to provide wider relative information on local and near periphery level and thus triggering response and support on combating, restricting and mitigating these disasters. On the other hand, it was exactly the outbreak of a ravaging wildfire on Mount Athos with terrible catastrophic effects that provided the motive for a more positive disposition towards mentioned ham radio activity.

However, there has never actually been a permit for ham radio amateur contests or daily ham radio activities, nor has it been any concern in the interests of the Holy Community to deal with this issue, since the Holy Community had at the time and still has much more serious and important issues of actual substance to resolve and deal with than those pertinent to a solitary Monk in his individual activity.

I say "individual activity" because the Monastery to which Monk Apollo belonged had not requested for such actions, and had not put forth an official Monastic request as such. This was also further demonstrated by the total ignorance of the Holy Community about the actions of Monk Apollo but

also with their absence of knowledge regarding the definition, principles, purpose, and key-functions of Amateur Radio. This fact alone is a response to those who invoke issues of licenses and concessions. This is also the reason why Monk Apollo did broadcast with Thessaloniki as signal mark location and “/A” mark location on Mount Athos, precisely because the base and station of transmission had to be lawfully seated in Thessaloniki and not on Mount Athos.

Having thus no serious and formal information provided on the subject from those who were directly involved and concerned, the Holy Community considered the use and action of Ham Radio as a notion opposing tradition and unrelated to Monasticism and its own tradition.

This at the exact very same time when Mount Athos is overwhelmed and flooded with constant use of Internet, YouTube, email, social media, mobile phone applications and every other wireless and recent technological invention services.

Although people nowadays do say “mobile” and they mean “cellular phone” the intended proper term to actually use is “radio” (frequency telecommunications). I tried with all my kind disposition and due respect to explain, clarify and inform the Holy Epistasia – the Holy Supervisory Committee of the Community (Greek Hiera Epistasia) – on the issue of “Ham/Amateur Radio”, at the time when the Holy Monastery of Koutloumousiou sent me as a member of their delegation regarding the Monastic request of a ham radio station installation.

The Koutloumousiou delegation consisted of Monk Iakovos (SV2RSG), as the representative of the Holy Monastery, the Monk driver and one more Monk, all present during our presentation and attending the whole hearing process of the Monastic request. Representatives of the Holy Epistasia of the Holy Community of Mount Athos were the Holy Protepistate and other two Monastery Epistates (Supervisors).

Immediately, it became obviously clear that the Holy Protepistate and the Monastery Epistates had, plausibly, no previous or current knowledge of what Ham Radio is in general, its advantages and how it works. In spite of my personal attempt to explain in detail, fill in any gaps or answer eventual queries, unfortunately no one was finally convinced of the use and usefulness of traditional amateur radio, not because they were not convinced based on reasoning and argumentation, but because there was lack of disposition towards dealing with the subject.

On the contrary, in reply to our presentation, I was met with many negative comments and criticism about Monk Apollo and his ham radio activities that I would not ever disclose for the sake of respect and esteem for the late brother Monk Apollo. On many occasions I have even received rebukes, insults and slander from friends of Monk Apollo and other Ham Radio amateurs, mostly anonymous.

Mentioned above was certainly not with any intention to put blame or accusation on anyone at all, I just need to attribute the truth to the events and actual facts that happened between people we are struggling together with in our weaknesses, passions and selfishness, during our common spiritual struggle and objectives. However, nowadays that we are going through a time period of total radio silence and relevant activity in Mount Athos, this due to plausible ignorance and partial lack of interest in such ham radio activities on the part of the Holy Community (because of so many other more important and pressing issues demanding our attention) we do have the opportunity to make an appeal.

With the status of a Holy Mount Athos Monk and as a Radio Amateur at the same time, I invite and urge you and all those who love Mount Athos and the tradition of Amateur Radio to join our hearts and voices

in sending letters or emails of support in spirit of respect to the Holy Community, and pray and request for: Its reconsideration on the issue and – granting their kind permission to install radio communications station(s), not to any individual Monks, but to any of the Holy Monasteries that do wish to install and operate such an installation (after decision of the Monasteries' 'Committee' and the 'Council of Elders') by designating / appointing a Monk Radio Operator responsible for its proper function, under the standards and guidelines of well-established international and domestic telecommunication rules and regulations. Glory be to God and our Lord Saviour Jesus Christ for all things! In spirit of Jesus Christ's love for all.

Monk Iakovos Koutlounousianos, SV2RSG

August Program

By *Eric*, NC6K

SDR Radios for Contesting and DXing

Software-defined radios (SDRs) have changed the way we operate in Amateur Radio contesting. They bring many advantages over non-SDR radios and also have some drawbacks. I've contested with both SDR radios since buying my first FlexRadio almost ten years ago, and will share some of the benefits of using an SDR during a contest as well as giving you an idea of some of the things that can go wrong.

Since we are first a DX Club, I will also frame the use of SDRs in the context of DXing, and will point out some ways that SDRs improve the chasing of rare DX.

N6KIM's DXCC

By Jim Price, K6ZH

My wife Joan, N6KIM, qualified for her DXCC last year. Santa (a.k.a. K6ZH) arranged to get her DXCC certificate printed and framed in time for Christmas! And the attached photo shows Joan with her newly minted wall paper!

A brief background:

We got married in 1978. I had been licensed since I was in High School. In 1981, Joan decided to get a tech. license so that we could keep in touch on 2 meters – no cell phones then! She got the call KA6YJJ. In the class, she met Judy who became KA6YJH and they became good friends. They decided to carry on with their studies and both got General, and later Advanced class licenses. Joan opted to get a 1x3 call when she got her Advanced, and N6KIM was assigned at that time. Judy kept her call, has since moved out of the area.

Fast forward to 2016. We arranged to have a VEC testing session at our vacation home of Goldfield, NV in April that year. Joan decided to go for the Extra – if for no other reason than to ensure that the VEs who came from Las Vegas and Pahrump would have something to do! As it turned out, we had 9 people take tests, and everyone passed the tests they went for, including Joan! That day we got 4 new Techs, 2 upgraded Techs – to – Generals, and 3 upgraded Generals – to – Extras!



Jim, K6ZH

Photos from BASH 2019

